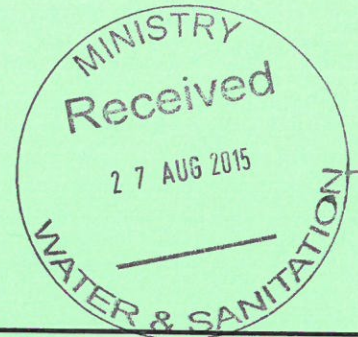




# water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdCM

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Reference: 29/1/2

## MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 3087 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Ms T E Baker (DA) is attached for your consideration.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE:**

26/8/15

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS NP MOKONYANE**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

**DATE:**

30.08.15

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 3087

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21 AUGUST 2015  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 32)

3087. Ms T E Baker (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

(a) How many dams are owned by her department, (b) where is each specified dam located and (c) what is the (i) storage capacity, (ii) current level and (iii) safety-risk status of each specified dam?

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REPLY:

- (a) There are 320 dams on the departmental register country wide.
- (b) Refer to **Appendix A** for locations of all the dams.
- (c)(i) **Appendix A** also gives the storage capacity of each dam, e.g. Gariep Dam approximate storage capacity is 5 342 923 000 m<sup>3</sup> {or 5 x 10<sup>6</sup> (x 1000 m<sup>3</sup>)}. The rest of the dams can be determined in similar manner.
- (c)(ii) **Appendix B** gives the weekly state of departmental reservoirs and the level can be read on the last column of the table, e.g. Reservoir level of Gariep on the 17 August 2015 was 69.7 % full.
- (c)(iii) The National Water Act 36 of 1998 Section 117 (c) defines a dam with a safety risk as a dam which contains 50 000 m<sup>3</sup> of water and has a wall of a vertical height of more than five meters (5 m), measured as the vertical difference between the lowest downstream ground elevation on the outside of the dam wall and the non-overspill crest or the general top level of the dam wall. Therefore according to this definition, all the departmental dams are considered dams with a safety risk.

To deal with the question of safety-risk status of each specified dam, reference is made to Section 2 (1) of Dam Safety Regulations Government Notice R 139 of 24 February 2012, (hence forth referred to as "Regulations"), which states: "Every dam with a safety risk must be classified in accordance with this regulation 2 on the basis of its size and hazard potential to determine the level of control over safety of the structure that is applicable in terms of these Regulations".

These two parameters, i.e. dam size and hazard potential are utilised as stipulated in Tables 1 and 2 of the Regulations' annexure to determine the Category classification of the dam as stipulated in Table 3 of the Regulations. It is this category classification which is used as an indicator for safety risk 'status' associated with the dam. In the attached **Appendix A** Column AC gives the size classification; Column AD gives hazard rating potential classification and Column AE gives the category classification, e.g. Gariep Dam, Category classification is 3, i.e. Size classification = Large and Hazard rating classification = High.

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